

# **ASBESTOS-CONTAINING ROCK AND SOIL —WHAT CALIFORNIA HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS NEED TO KNOW —**

**An informational guide for homeowners  
and renters with naturally-occurring  
asbestos sources near their homes**



**In cooperation with  
Local Air Districts**

**Cal/EPA  
California Air Resources Board  
Compliance Assistance Program  
P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, CA 95812**

**<http://www.arb.ca.gov>**

## **WHAT TO LOOK FOR...**

**Asbestos is a term used for several naturally-occurring fibrous minerals. Asbestos most commonly occurs in ultramafic rock that has undergone partial or complete alteration to serpentine rock, and often contains chrysotile asbestos. Another form of asbestos, tremolite, can be found associated with ultramafic rock, particularly near faults.**



**Asbestos fibers are released from rock when it is crushed or broken and through natural weathering processes. The fibers are tiny and may be invisible to the naked eye. Since this rock may be present in the soils around your home, or may have been used in the past on your driveway or walkway, there is a potential for asbestos exposures where you live. This could happen through routine activities that crush asbestos-containing rock or create dust in soils that contain asbestos fibers. Some examples of these activities are:**

- Driving over areas surfaced with ultramafic or serpentine rock;**
- Rototilling, plowing the ground, or using a shovel;**
- Riding horses or moving livestock;**
- Construction activities, such as pool installation; and**
- Using a leaf blower to clean sidewalks.**

**Once free, asbestos fibers may stay in the soil or remain airborne for a long time.**

## **HEALTH FACTS**

- All forms of asbestos fibers can cause cancer and are classified as known human carcinogens.**
- Any exposure to a carcinogenic compound involves some risk; therefore, no “safe” exposure level has been established for asbestos. No one knows how many fibers are needed to cause cancer or other lung disease.**
- Asbestos fibers can be inhaled and remain in the lung or travel to the lining of the lungs and abdominal cavity.**
- Diseases caused by asbestos may not be observed for twenty or more years. The risk of disease depends upon the intensity and duration of exposure.**
- Serious diseases that can occur when someone inhales air that contains asbestos fibers include:**
  - Asbestosis: A non-cancerous lung disease which causes scarring of the lungs;**
  - Mesothelioma: A rare cancer of the thin membranes lining the lungs, chest, and abdominal cavity; and**
  - Lung Cancer (smoking significantly increases the risk of lung cancer if one is exposed to asbestos).**

**For more information on the health effects of asbestos see:**

**<http://www.oehha.ca.gov>**

**Need more information or have special translation needs? Call:**  
**Air Resources Board 1-800-242-4450**  
**For information on local air pollution control programs, call your local air district.**

#### **AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICTS**

Amador	(209) 257-0112
Antelope Valley	(661) 723-8070
Butte	(530) 891-2882
Calaveras	(209) 754-6504
Colusa	(530) 458-0590
El Dorado	(530) 621-6662
Glenn	(530) 934-6500
Imperial	(760) 482-4606
Kern	(661) 862 5250
Lake	(707) 263-7000
Lassen	(530) 251-8110
Mariposa	(209) 966-2220
Mendocino	(707) 463-4354
Modoc	(530) 233-6419
Mojave Desert	(760) 245-1661
No. Sonoma	(707) 433-5911
Placer	(530) 889-7130
Sacramento	(916) 874-4800
San Diego	(858) 650-4700
San Luis Obispo	(805) 781-4247
Santa Barbara	(805) 961-8800
Shasta	(530) 225-5674
Siskiyou	(530) 841-4029
Tehama	(530) 527-3717
Tuolumne	(209) 533-5693
Ventura	(805) 645-1400

#### **MULTI-COUNTY AIR DISTRICTS**

Bay Area	(415) 771-6000
Feather River	(530) 634-7659
Great Basin	(760) 872-8211
Monterey Bay	(831) 647-9411
North Coast	(707) 443-3093
Northern Sierra	(530) 274-9360
San Joaquin Valley	(559) 230-6000
South Coast	(909) 396-2000
Yolo-Solano	(530) 757-3650

## **CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD REGULATIONS**

### **AIRBORNE TOXIC CONTROL MEASURE (ATCM) FOR SURFACING APPLICATIONS**

**The Asbestos ATCM for Surfacing Applications reduces asbestos emissions by prohibiting the use of asbestos-containing rocks and soils for surfacing applications. Surfacing applications include unpaved roads, driveways, pathways, decorative uses, and landscaping.**



### **AIRBORNE TOXIC CONTROL MEASURE (ATCM) FOR CONSTRUCTION AND QUARRYING**

**The Asbestos ATCM for Construction and Quarrying minimizes the emissions of asbestos by requiring the use of dust control practices in areas where asbestos is found or likely to be found. The ATCM applies if construction, grading, quarrying, or surfacing mining activities occurs in these areas.**

**For more information:**  
**<http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/asbestos.htm>**

## **WHAT *YOU* CAN DO TO MINIMIZE YOUR EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS-CONTAINING DUST**

**Take steps to reduce the amount of asbestos dust in the air around your home such as:**

- Pave over unpaved walkways, driveways, or roadways that may have asbestos-containing rock or soil.**
- Cover crushed asbestos-containing rock in gardens and yards with soil or landscaping.**
- Pre-wet garden areas prior to disturbing the soil.**
- Remove shoes before entering your home to reduce tracking in fibers.**
- Keep windows and doors closed on windy days or during construction.**
- Reduce vehicle speed on unpaved roads.**
- Use a wet rag to dust (as opposed to a feather duster) and use wet mops on non-carpeted floor.**
- Use washable area rugs on your floors.**

**If you are concerned that you may have asbestos-containing rock or soils around your home, or if you are considering purchasing a home in an area where these rocks or soils may be present, you may want to consider contacting a licensed geologist to examine the property. If you are concerned that you may have asbestos in your home, contact a certified analytical laboratory. For a list of consultants and/or laboratories, call the ARB Monitoring & Laboratory Division at (916) 445-9483, or consult the Yellow Pages ® directory under "Laboratories-Analytical."**